

**Matter of Childerston**  
**Del. Supr. No. 94, 2001 (3/2/01)**  
**Board Case No. 5, 2001**

**Disciplinary Rules:**            **DLRPC 1.15(b), 8.4(c), 8.4(d)**

**Sanctions Imposed:**        Interim Suspension

By Order of the Delaware Supreme Court dated March 2, 2001, H. James Childerston was immediately suspended from the practice of law in Delaware, pending final disposition of all attorney disciplinary proceedings. The Court found that Mr. Childerston had engaged in ethical misconduct and poses a significant threat of substantial harm to the public and to the orderly administration of justice. A petition for interim suspension had been filed by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (“ODC”) on February 27, 2001, on the grounds that Mr. Childerston had abandoned his law practice and had engaged in other professional misconduct.

The Respondent was last seen at his residence and by office staff on the morning of February 19, 2001. On February 26, 2001, Wilmington Trust Company contacted the ODC with information that the Respondent’s escrow account was overdrawn in the amount of \$100,896.85. Wilmington Trust Company subsequently froze the Respondent’s escrow and operating accounts.

The Court also directed the Office of Disciplinary Counsel to petition the Court of Chancery for the appointment of a receiver. By Order also dated March 2, 2001, Donald E. Reid, Esquire, a partner with the law firm of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell, was appointed as receiver for Mr. Childerston’s law practice.